(b) and (c) Safeguards are provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to prevent illegal lock outs and to protect the interests of the workers.

Workplace safety for industrial workers

296. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey regarding the workplace safety of the industrial workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons theefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that many safety regulations of the Statute Book are not effectively implemented and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Government have not carried out any comprehensive survey regarding workplace safety of industrial workers in the country.

(b) There is no mandatory provision for carrying out surveys regarding workplace safety of industrial workers. However, the Factories Act, 1948 provides for survey of workplace safety which are carried out in the factories by the Chief Inspectors of Factories in the States. Similarly, the Directorate General of Mines Safety carries out such surveys in the mines.

(c) The safety provisions prescribed by the Acts and Rules framed thereunder are by and large complied with by the employers. However, whenever any violation of these provisions are noticed, necessary action is taken by the respective enforcement agency by way of issuing show cause notices, improvement notices and violation letters. The prosecution cases are also launched, wherever necessary.

Exemption to SEZs from EPF Act

297. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to exempt the Special Economic Zones from the purview of the Employees Provident Fund Act;